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YALE LAW JOURNAL

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THE economic problems raised by the great labor union strikes have by their overwhelming importance so much occupied public attention that the legal questions involved in these phenomena have been too little regarded. By the railway strikes of the past summer our commercial system was griped at its most vulnerable point and fearfully choked for the time. The country demands a remedy for this sort of thing. The remedy most naturally suggesting itself is impractical. Social Reform, while aiming at the root of the trouble, is too distant and not for the present generation. A more immediate palliative consists in reducing the great struggle to at least an orderly form. There has been too little legal regulation of the internal organization of labor unions, and too little knowledge of their mechanism. The courts at present in trying to fix the responsibility for the recent violations of the Inter-State Commerce Law are clearly much hampered by the state of affairs in this particular regard. The officers of the railway unions are enabled to dodge liability for all but the most positive and overt of their acts, by reason of the general uncertainty as to the nature and extent of their powers. There should be definitely established relations of agency inside these organizations. This would require the more complete recognition of them by law, the accurate determining of the position and

responsibilities of their officers, and a far greater publicity of their charters, by-laws and minutes. Labor unions owe many of their worst features to bad leadership. Their present form invites and encourages their control by irresponsible and radical demagogues. The more definite the legal liabilities of the leaders, the better for both the unions and the public. Such regulation would tend to give the labor union its proper place as an orderly and calculable element in the commercial system.

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IN offering its hearty welcome to the just materialized entity of '96 L. S., the JOURNAL wishes to add a few words of suggestion. The opportunities which are open to Law School men as members of the University are not sufficiently appreciated or used by them. While the strict Law School course is fully utilized, the advantages presented by the University at large and open to all members of the University as such, are hardly known to the average Law School man, and still less improved. A change in this state of affairs is much to be desired and with this in view we will make specific mention of some of the advantages we refer to. First of all are the library facilities: Chittenden Library for reference in any line of study which the student may wish to pursue outside of his class-room work; and "Linonia and Brothers," with its liberal rules and great variety of books for light reading; as well as the reading-room, with its large flow of periodical literature and newspapers. Again, among the courses in the Academic department, open to Law School men, are many of great value to them, notably those in economics and finance, the privileges of which may be had for a moderate fee. There are also frequent public lectures on various subjects. Dwight Hall, the college Y. M. C. A., both through its general religious services and its University receptions offers the best way to meet men of the other departments, and Law School students are always very gladly welcomed to its rooms. We strongly urge the new members of the Law School especially to acquaint themselves with these opportunities. The use of them by Law School men not only gives the users a direct and obvious benefit, but does something more. It tends clearly to draw together the various departments of the University through the interests which their members can thus have in common, and it is an advance in the direction of a more complete unification much to be desired.

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THE competition for positions on the editorial board of the JOURNAL will commence immediately after this issue and will be

open to the entire school. The contributions from competitors may take the form of either Editorials, Comments, or Recent Cases. A general idea of the requirements of such contributions may be gained by an inspection of previous issues. The subject matter of editorials should be mainly legal, or, in especial cases, of particular interest to the School. Comments should deal with general and recent changes in the common or statute law. Recent Cases should be short, clear digests of the vital points in the latest decisions of the courts, either on new matter, or as tending toward new developments of established law in specific instances. Such latest decisions will be found in the various Law Reporters, copies of which will be distributed to competitors at times to be announced hereafter. Toward the end of the year a short essay on a subject to be specified later will also be required of each competitor. The quality rather than the quantity of the contributions will be observed as the standard in rating the contributors. We recommend this work earnestly to the Junior Class. The JOURNAL, as the legal organ of Yale, deserves the support of all Law School men. Aside from the desirability of gaining a position on the editorial board, the work in itself is eminently beneficial to the competitor whether successful or not, leading as it does to the cultivation of clear and terse expression and to a knowledge of the law obtained in so practical a way as to make the acquisition a permanent one.